

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 and 10-16 are pending herein. Claims 1 and 3-9 have been cancelled hereby without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Applicant appreciates the PTO indicating that claims 2 and 10-16 are allowed. Since allowed claims 2 and 10-16 are the only claims pending herein, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for this application in due course.

2. The prior art rejections of claims 1 and 3-9 are noted, but deemed moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

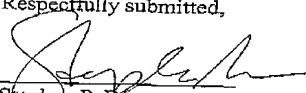
3. The rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,541,406 is noted, but deemed moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

December 1, 2003
Date


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